

## Experiences Putting Up Silage

**W**E have just about completed putting up our silage and with all the machinery it has been a pretty big job. The greatest difficulty I have found is in obtaining labor in filling. While we exchange help, still we must hire some men and it generally comes in a very busy season.

I have had some difficulty in a small amount of silage spoiling. At the door I used tar paper last year, which was not quite satisfactory. I am trying to overcome the trouble this year by using a prepared roofing. The most amusing part was the knockers when I first talked of putting up a silo. One well-to-do farmer said to me: "If I were you, Fred, I would not build a silo, as silage will sour the land."

Another neighbor thought it would wear out the land. Still he would cut up his fodder and feed it out in the corral, and of course he could not haul out the manure with long stalks in it. Still others said that the acid in the silage would decay the cows' teeth. I have not examined my cows' teeth, but still they seem to eat as well as ever. Maybe here is a new field for a dentist. I fill my 80-ton silo from 7½ acres of pretty good corn as such a crop is considered here in Colorado.

### Convenience of Feeding.

This amount of silage is, of course, only a patching as compared with the 20,000 tons the Windsor farm used to put up, but it is enough for my purposes for it feeds from 16 to 20 head during a period of six months and it is very palatable feed at that. The convenience of feeding is worth all that the silo cost in the first place. I do all my feeding without leaving the stable, and then silage is much easier handled than even hay, let alone fodder, which must be fed outside. Just last week I was talking with a neighbor and he was complaining about the terrors of the snow and ice on his fodder as occurred last Winter when the big storm came.

He said he could not haul it at all and had to give it up. The fodder shocks were all blown over and buried in the snow. This may be one reason why the boys leave the ranch and the old man, too, for that matter. Ordinarily one man can throw down ensilage and feed it to 40 cows in about half an hour, while it would take two men one hour and a half to hitch up and go to the field, get the fodder and feed it to the same number. Silage, as everyone knows, is a canned grain or forage crop.

### Silo Length.

It is put in the silo green, cut in lengths varying from one-fourth to three-fourths of an inch, but usually about one-half inch. The shorter lengths pack closer and therefore keep a little better. But it makes the filling slower, so taking labor into consideration, the one-half inch length strikes about the happy medium, although I notice that most of it is cut to three-quarter length.

Now, as I said, silage is made of a grain or forage crop, Indian corn first, kafir or milo second, and cane or sorghum third. A crop that is high in starch and carbohydrates is better than one that is high in protein, especially when it is to be fed in connection with alfalfa hay. Siloed protein gives off a rather offensive odor. We must continue to be a beef and dairy product eating nation.

How many acres does it take to keep one cow five or six months on the average pasture? About three or 3½ acres, which would be at the rate of six or seven acres a year, or for 2½ years it would be 15 to 17½ acres.

Now take a calf at weaning time and feed it ensilage and alfalfa hay for 2½ years, we will say, it will eat 30 pounds of silage a day, which I think is high enough. In 2½ years it will eat 27,375 pounds of silage and 10 tons of hay. The feed that will grow in one season on 1 1-3 acres of corn and two-thirds of an acre of alfalfa, or two acres one season, will make a 1200 or 1400-pound steer or heifer.

### Solving High Cost of Living.

Now compare two acres with 15 to 17½ acres, the difference of pasture land and tilled land with a good silo to help, and we find a difference of eight to one. So in the silo we must solve the high cost of living and in this way hold our prestige among the strictly dairy nations and at the same time increase the fertility of the soil.

As a matter of fact, the real value of the silo is just as great to our

Western stockmen as it is to those in Eastern states, and it should form a part of the permanent improvements of every Western livestock farm and ranch. The value of silage was first realized by dairy farmers of the East, who found that it was the ideal feed for producing milk.

We all know that a cow will greatly increase her milk flow when turned out to pasture in the Spring. The principal reason why she does is that she is receiving a succulent food. Silage is the succulent feed that takes the place of the pasture grass of Summer.

It is a splendid feed for bringing cattle through the Winter in good condition. Our Western cattlemen are all more or less uneasy during the Winter months, wondering if they will be able to get through and onto grass in good condition, or just how bad off they will really be. Silage is the one substitute for grass. —Fred Seekamp in "Field and Farm."

## How Canadians Treat Germans

**A**T A recent meeting held at Husar, Alberta, a committee consisting of Carl Schumacher, George Wendtland, Ernest Wendtland, R. C. Hildebrande and F. W. Thaden was appointed to draft a denial to the statements recently sent broadcast throughout the United States regarding ill-treatment of Germans now settled in Western Canada. The statement prepared by them to the Lutheran Synod, of St. Louis, Mo., is as follows:

A short time ago there appeared in a number of newspapers in the United States articles which dealt with the unworthy and unjust treatment of Germans and Austrians living in Canada, both on the part of the Canadian government and the Canadian people, and in which are painted in strong colors the unpleasantness and hopelessness to which the enemies of England are exposed here.

### Groundless Rumors.

To this we wish to remark that these rumors are not according to facts. A little over a year ago we established a colony in Husar, Alberta, consisting of twenty purely German farmers and their families. The young members of our colony left for the United States at the outbreak of the war in order to sail for Germany; the others have signed a parole, in accordance with the directions from the Canadian government, and in which parole they undertake not to take any inimical steps during the duration of the war against which the government on their part promised full security of Canadian laws. Since then more than a quarter of the year has elapsed and we have not had any unpleasantness on account of the war. We have met everywhere with kind receptions and discreet understanding of our situation and everything in our colony has taken its usual course.

### Railroad Is Helping.

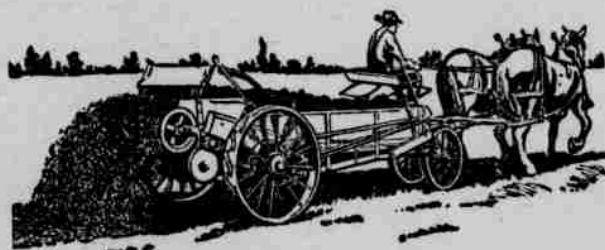
The railroad company, from which we purchased our lands, has during this time, in which the forwarding of money from Germany for the purpose of extending our operations is made possible, aided us in the most helpful manner, so that the execution of the plans could progress without hindrance, and we have only words of grace and acknowledgment therefor.

Impelled by our German sense of righteousness, we send you these lines, as the greatest number among us belong to your faith, and as we have been informed that there is a number of German-Americans from your jurisdiction who intended to make a new home in Western Canada and who have been turned away from their purpose by false newspaper articles. The fact that Western Canada is the one place for every German or Austrian farmer who has made up his mind to secure himself and his family a safe future through earnest and steady labor the war cannot change in any particular.

Such is the experience we have had and, although we all remember the fatherland in this moment of distress with all our hearts and thought, we, however, believe that it is only fair that we in this manner should vindicate our new home.

The Farmers' Union of Arizona has put itself on record as opposing the proposed \$10,000,000 bond issue for transcontinental highways and reclamation.

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